

# Is Set for June 27

By Karl E. Meyer  
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, June 18—James Earl Ray, 40, who is wanted in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will face formal extradition proceedings on June 27. An American fingerprint expert is due to testify then that Ray is the suspect who has been sought since the murder of Dr. King last April 4.

The date of the hearing was set today in Bow Street Magistrates Court, where Ray appeared for 10 minutes but did not speak.

Unusual security precautions were taken. All reporters and spectators were searched for weapons, and a line of seven police formed a screen around the defendant.

Ray, who could only be glimpsed between the shoulders of his vigilant guardians, seemed to follow the proceedings intently. He wore a blue checked jacket, a white shirt, and—unlike his first brief appearance in court last week—a pair of horn-rimmed spectacles.

He was arrested at London airport on June 8 and charged under the name of Ramon George Sneyd with carrying a forged Canadian passport and possessing a loaded pistol without a permit.

Roger Frisby, a British lawyer who has been assigned to defend Ray, asked that these two British charges should be adjourned until the extradition proceedings were com-

pleted. Chief Magistrate Frank Milton acceded to the request.

Frisby also said that his client took exception to a headline which appeared in the London Times on June 10 asserting that Ray had been "interviewed" by a U.S. Justice Department official. Ray actually never saw this official and he wished maximum publicity given to that effect, the attorney said.

The Times story referred to U.S. Assistant Atty. Gen. Fred Vinson, who had come to London to expedite the extradition process. Vinson visited the police station where Ray was held but did not interview the prisoner. The erroneous story was based on an unclear remark by Vinson to reporters that he had "seen" the suspect.

The United States was represented today by a British lawyer, Nigel Maw, who read out the extradition counts. The first count stated:

"James Earl Ray, hereinafter called the defendant, suspected and accused of the commission of the crime of murder to wit, on April 4, 1968, in Shelby County, State of Tennessee, did unlawfully, feloniously, wilfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought, kill and murder Martin Luther King Junior, within the jurisdiction of the United States." Other Count Cited

A second count referred to a robbery by means of a deadly weapon, a charge of which Ray was sentenced to a Missouri prison on Feb. 19, 1960. A third charge—that Ray violated a Federal law by allegedly conspiring against the civil rights of Dr. King—was not mentioned in the extradition document, meaning if Ray is returned to the U.S. he cannot be tried on that count.

After the extradition hearing, which will also take place in the Bow Street Court, Ray would have up to 15 days in which to appeal for a writ of habeas corpus in the event the Chief Magistrate should uphold the U.S. request.

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Ray is being held in Wandsworth Prison, where two police officers are with him at times in his cell. As a defendant in an extradition case, he has the special privileges of not wearing a prison uniform, additional spending money and more liberal visiting arrangements.